U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop issued the following statement regarding Senator Zell Miller's decision not to run for reelection in 2004:

"I deeply regret that my good friend Senator Zell Miller has decided not to seek reelection to the U.S. Senate in 2004. He is, and has been, an extraordinary statesman and a true public servant. His service will be greatly missed, but his legacy will be gratefully remembered.

"While I am sad that our state will lose the strong wisdom that Zell has brought to public life in Georgia for nearly half a century, I can truly understand his decision to enjoy the balance of his life with Shirley and his family free of public obligation.

"My wife Vivian and I wish Zell and Shirley the very best in their much-deserved retirement-- for they have surely given Georgia more than our state could ever repay."